General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 23 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/475/Add.1)*]

70/216. Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 69/231 of 19 December 2014 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on the smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/35 of 23 July 2015 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[3] and on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures;[4]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely: (*a*) productive capacity; (*b*) agriculture, food security and rural development; (*c*) trade; (*d*) commodities; (*e*) human and social development; (*f*) multiple crises and other emerging challenges; (*g*) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building; and (*h*) good governance at all levels;

3. *Underscores* that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rest with themselves, and also underscores that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, through renewed and strengthened global partnership, and calls upon the international community to assist the least developed countries in building their capacities and to strengthen the global partnership for development, including through strengthened support from all sources in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure its timely, effective and full implementation during the remainder of the decade;

4. *Notes with appreciation* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[6] incorporate a number of key development challenges and priorities for the least developed countries;

5. *Underlines* that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, as contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through the rapid and timely development

[3] A/70/83-E/2015/75.

[4] A/70/292.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] Resolution 69/313, annex.

of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Also underlines* the need for strong synergy, coherence and efficiency regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

7. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

8. *Recalls* its decision, in its resolution 69/231, on the modalities of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, and decides that the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review will be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016;

9. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and Benin as the co-facilitators to oversee and direct informal intergovernmental consultations on all issues relating to the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review;

10. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting of experts, to be chaired by the co-facilitators, will be held from 28 to 31 March 2016, in accordance with its resolution 69/231, and that it will consider the draft outcome document;

11. *Reaffirms* the scope of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, as contained in paragraph 28 of its resolution 69/231;

12. *Encourages* participants to consider the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review as an opportunity to highlight how the concrete measures, initiatives, partnerships and actions that they have taken to date have supported the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to launch other concrete measures, initiatives and partnerships, individually or collectively, that have the potential to further progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, building on the momentum of recent and relevant United Nations meetings, agendas and conferences, and the decisions contained therein;

13. *Reaffirms* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of the participation of at least three government representatives of each least developed country in the Midterm Review and at least two representatives of each least developed country in the preparatory meeting of experts;

14. *Notes* the ongoing national- and regional-level preparations that will make important contributions to the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review;

15. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional financial institutions, to actively participate in the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, at the highest possible level, and in its preparatory processes;

16. *Underlines* the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stresses that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures on an urgent basis at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Takes note* of the feasibility study for a United Nations technology bank for the least developed countries prepared by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries[7] and the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study for a United Nations technology bank for the least developed countries,[8] and appreciates the work done by the High-level Panel;

18. *Welcomes with appreciation*, and accepts, the offer by Turkey to host the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations in Gebze, and requests the Secretary-General to conclude a host country agreement with the Government of Turkey in that regard;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, in particular the least developed countries, development partners and the host country, and drawing on the appropriate expertise inside and outside the United Nations system, to take the steps necessary to launch and operationalize the technology bank for the least developed countries, funded by voluntary contributions, by 2017, and to mobilize and ensure the continued support for the technology bank from all relevant stakeholders, including through:

(*a*) Establishing a multi-stakeholder governing council comprising the representatives of the Governments and the non-governmental sectors of the least developed countries, the host country, other Member States and the Secretary-General, which, among other things, will formulate principles and policies governing the activities and operations of the technology bank, in line with the recommendations of the High-level Panel, as guiding principles and inform the General Assembly regularly on the work of the technology bank;

(*b*) Establishing a trust fund with the flexibility necessary to attract voluntary funding from Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations;

(*c*) Mobilizing the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to support the launch and operationalization of the technology bank and its effective functioning;

[7] See http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2015/10/Feasibility-Study-of-Technology-Bank.pdf.
[8] A/70/408.

20. *Recalls* the importance of avoiding duplication and enhancing synergies between the technology bank for the least developed countries and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;[9]

21. *Reiterates its recommendation* that the consultative mechanism specified in its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 be established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions and the negotiation of their duration and phasing-out for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, and that it be integrated into other relevant consultative processes and initiatives between the graduating country and its development partners;

22. *Invites* development partners to make available timely information about country-specific support measures and related smooth transition measures for the least developed countries in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and trade-related measures, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a progress report on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category;

24. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, by the first quarter of 2016, on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in lieu of his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and to the Economic and Social Council at its 2016 session , and decides to include, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee;

25. *Decides* to consider the report of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" of the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations".

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[9] Resolution 69/313, para. 123, and resolution 70/1, para. 70.

United Nations A/RES/70/217

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 23 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/475/Add.2)*]

70/217. Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[1] adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolution 69/232 of 19 December 2014,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

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implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled "The future we want",[3]

Recalling further the Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[5] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[6]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities,

Recognizing the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies, as well as the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Stressing the importance of the contribution of landlocked developing countries to Expo 2015, held in Milan, Italy, from 1 May to 31 October 2015 on the theme "Feeding the planet, energy for life", and of the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in the activities of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and in Expo 2017, which will be held in Astana and which will focus on the theme "Future energy",

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[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[6] Ibid., annex I.

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Taking note of the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, adopted at the high-level follow-up ministerial meeting to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015,

Taking note also of the declaration of the high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government of landlocked developing countries on the theme "Linking Landlocked Developing Countries to Global Opportunities", held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 September 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;[7]

2. *Welcomes* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[9] and affirms that the effective implementation of those outcomes, together with the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[10] can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries;

3. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries face specific challenges in their efforts towards the eradication of poverty and pursuit of sustainable development, and in this regard underscores the importance of continued international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries;

4. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement at all levels the actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas, namely: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation; in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

[7] A/70/305.

[8] Resolution 70/1.

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

5. *Invites* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

6. *Invites* development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Common Fund for Commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

8. *Appreciates* the efforts made by Member States and other development partners, including the governing bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, inter alia, to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action;

9. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, stresses also that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

10. *Underlines* that infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries and that the development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market;

11. *Welcomes* the call in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for the establishment of a new global infrastructure forum, building on existing multilateral collaboration mechanisms, led by the multilateral development banks, and underlines that this forum will encourage a greater range of voices to be heard, particularly from developing countries, to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps, including in landlocked developing countries;

12. *Stresses* that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge and requires forging international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening the role of the private sector, and recognizes that both public and private investment have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance

institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance with non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special-purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled funding structures;

13. *Encourages* multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure, including by completing missing links connecting, inter alia, landlocked developing countries within regional networks;

14. *Underlines* that greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development;

15. *Calls upon* members of the World Trade Organization to fully and expeditiously implement all the decisions of the "Bali package" of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2013, and to expeditiously ratify the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

16. *Stresses* the importance, for the economic development of landlocked developing countries, of their increased participation in the multilateral trading system;

17. *Also stresses* that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance, would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services;

18. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

19. *Stresses* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity, that this approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets, that this would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization and that documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices are important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience;

20. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of

landlocked developing countries in export markets, and welcomes the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;[11]

21. *Underlines* that, in order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development, stresses that each landlocked developing country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and in this regard stresses that the national development efforts of landlocked developing countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

22. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community;

23. *Also recognizes* the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification and deforestation on the economies of landlocked developing countries, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, including through research on the impacts of climate change in landlocked developing countries, as appropriate;

24. *Urges* those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to fully operationalize the think tank;

25. *Invites* developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

26. *Underlines* the importance of increasing and using high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and stresses the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, for this purpose and to provide international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to further strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux;

27. *Also underlines* the critical role of the private sector, including through foreign direct investment, in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

28. *Further underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement

[11] Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

29. *Urges* that effective linkages be made between the follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action, in line with the 2030 Agenda;

30. *Underlines* the importance of successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

31. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, and also stresses that the Office, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries", unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 24 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/476/Add.1)*]

70/218. Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 69/234 of 19 December 2014 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1 United States dollar a day[2] and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Taking note of the ongoing efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[5] adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[6] adopted in September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[7] adopted in November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and recognizing that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and the need,

[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Since 2008, United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals have been using a poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars a day.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[6] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

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among other things, for improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development", its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010 on the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013 on the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note with appreciation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011, entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2012 session of the Council,[8] which called for increased efforts to enhance coordination at all levels with a view to strengthening national development strategies, investing in productive capacities, helping to start and grow business and promoting opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all, and of the integration segment of the 2015 session of the Council, which was convened under the theme "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all",

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[9] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

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[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/67/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. F.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution 63/239, annex.

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing that the importance of the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty,

Reaffirming that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, that its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development, that increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and that the survival of many societies and of the biological support systems of the planet are at risk, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and thus requiring urgent action to maintain, preserve and sustain the development gains achieved in the past decades,

Concerned that, past the midway point of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven, with the number of people living in poverty in its different forms and dimensions continuing to increase and inequalities to rise in some countries, with

women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Emphasizing that corruption at all levels, including the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, stressing the need for the return of such funds and assets to their countries of origin, and calling upon all Member States to identify, assess and act on money-laundering risks, including through effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force standards on anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing,

Urging all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[11] and encouraging parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption and bribery, prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and recover and return stolen assets to their country of origin, and encouraging the international community to develop good practices on asset return,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

Acknowledging that the eradication of poverty requires a balanced approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — in order to ensure that gains are irreversible,

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities, through both paid and unpaid work, at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that evidence shows that gender equality, the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital in order to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity, and reaffirming also that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are critical factors in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Recognizing further the centrality of mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources, as well as the importance of policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development, at all levels and by all actors, and of reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that aggregate/net official development assistance (ODA) fell from 0.30 per cent in 2013 to 0.29 per cent in 2014, while noting that aggregate/net ODA has increased since 2000 and has long been a key source of financing for development, and reiterating the call on those Member States that have made commitments to fulfil those commitments and step up efforts to increase their assistance and make additional concrete efforts towards meeting their ODA targets,

Underscoring that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Emphasizing the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while recognizing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and emphasizing also that countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries also deserve special attention,

Taking note of the work done under the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in its advisory and programmatic support to Member States, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and encouraging the

alignment of that work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Stressing the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, and to diversify commodity economies and integrate commodity policies into wider development and poverty eradication strategies at all levels,

Stressing also the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues";[12]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[13] and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[14] is an integral part;

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority within the United Nations development agenda to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions in order to ensure that gains are irreversible, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the

[12] A/70/281.

[13] Resolution 70/1.

[14] Resolution 69/313, annex.

regional level, in particular that of its regional commissions, as appropriate, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

7. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda and to urgently take measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in the light of their negative impact on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through the provision of predictable financial resources on a bilateral and multilateral basis;

9. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

10. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities, with the development of national capacities in developing countries continuing to be a core area of focus, and operate in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, through development programmes and projects that address poverty eradication as their underlying objective, within their respective mandates, in order to ensure that gains are irreversible, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

11. *Recognizes* the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, through, inter alia, education and training;

12. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources, and that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other public and private sources, and that ODA providers reaffirm their respective commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

13. *Welcomes* the increase in the volume of ODA since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus,[9] expresses its concern that many countries still fall short of their ODA commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial, welcomes those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of

ODA/GNI to the least developed countries, urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of focusing the majority of concessional resources on those countries with the greatest needs and least ability to mobilize other resources, notes with great concern in this regard the decline in the share of ODA to the least developed countries, commits to reversing this decline, and welcomes those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their ODA to the least developed countries;

15. *Stresses* the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfilment of ODA commitments, including through raising public awareness, and providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results, encourages partner countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets, encourages the publication of forward-looking plans that increase the clarity, predictability and transparency of future development cooperation, in accordance with national budget allocation processes, and urges countries to track and report resource allocations for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

16. *Notes* that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private, also noting that it can support improved tax collection and help to strengthen domestic enabling environments and build essential public services and can also be used to unlock additional finance through blended or pooled financing and risk mitigation, notably for infrastructure and other investments that support private sector development;

17. *Recalls* the commitment to hold open, inclusive and transparent discussions on the modernization of the ODA measurement and on the proposed measure of "total official support for sustainable development", and affirms that any such measure will not dilute the commitments already made;

18. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of ODA and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action [15] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

[15] A/63/539, annex.

19. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food security, which will lead to rich payoffs across the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation and devote resources to developing rural and urban areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries and to supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

20. *Also recognizes* that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the natural resources of the planet, and stresses the importance of conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, as well as promoting sustainable tourism, tackling water scarcity and water pollution, strengthening cooperation on desertification, dust storms, degraded land and soil and drought, promoting resilience and disaster risk reduction, addressing decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation and implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;[16]

21. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

22. *Recognizes* that sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

23. *Stresses* the resolve to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, and the efforts to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions;

24. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements that better reflect this multidimensionality, and emphasizes the importance of developing a common understanding among national Governments and other stakeholders of the multidimensional nature of poverty;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts towards more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investment in sustainable agriculture and resilient infrastructure development and achievement of access to energy, as well as the promotion of decent rural employment, improved access to quality education and health care, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the expansion of social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and the adaptation and combating of inequality and social exclusion;

[16] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

26. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

27. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, as appropriate, to conduct activities to accelerate and review progress in the implementation of the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

28. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

29. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action by the International Labour Organization;

30. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of women, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of Social Protection Floors Recommendation of 2012 (No. 202) of the International Labour Organization;

31. *Stresses* the importance of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage for the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue to develop and implement social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

32. *Emphasizes* the reference in the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the need to ensure the significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;

33. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and the means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

34. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[17] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

35. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

36. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

37. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

38. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding the duplication of efforts;

39. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and therefore requests the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report, including a review of the progress made by the

[17] Resolution 63/303, annex.

agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations development system in the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)", unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015

United Nations A/RES/70/219

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 24 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/476/Add.2)*]

70/219. Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/104 of 20 December 1995, 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005, 62/206 of 19 December 2007, 64/217 of 21 December 2009, 66/216 of 22 December 2011, 68/227 of 20 December 2013, 69/236 of 19 December 2014 and all its other resolutions on women in development, and the resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the declarations adopted at its forty-ninth[1] and fifty-fourth sessions,[2]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which affirms that the equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured and calls for, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as being effective in and essential to eradicating poverty and hunger, combating diseases and stimulating development that is truly sustainable,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] Resolution 55/2.

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Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming and recalling the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including through the Sustainable Development Goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and through commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made across the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity,

Reaffirming that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities, that women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels, that it will work for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and national levels, that all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls will be eliminated, including through the engagement of men and boys, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[5] and the international commitments made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[6] and the key actions for its further implementation,

Welcoming the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[7]

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[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

Welcoming also the holding of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, on 27 September 2015, and the pledges submitted by Governments in this regard,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit[3] and at the 2005 World Summit,[8] in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9] and at other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[10] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[11] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[12] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[13] and the outcomes of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[14] the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS,[15] the high-level meetings of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[16] the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[17] the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,[18] the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,[19] the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs,[20] the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,[21] the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,[22] the Lima work programme on gender[23] and the Sendai Framework

[8] Resolution 60/1.

[9] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[12] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[13] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[14] Resolution 65/1.

[15] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[16] Resolutions 66/2, annex, and 68/300.

[17] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

[18] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

[19] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[20] Resolution 63/1.

[21] Resolution 68/3.

[22] Resolution 68/4

[23] FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.3, decision 18/CP.20.

for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[24] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Looking forward to the convening in 2016 of a high-level meeting to conduct a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[25] and the political declarations on HIV and AIDS,[26]

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme, embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and regional initiatives, which promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which reaffirms that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained and inclusive economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies in facilitating the advancement and empowerment of women in development, and in this context recalling the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reiterating the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), welcoming the leadership of UN-Women in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels, and reaffirming its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress made by the United Nations development system in implementing the mandates on gender equality and empowerment of women set out in resolution 67/226,

Expressing deep concern about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among

[24] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[25] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[26] Resolution 60/262, annex, and resolution 65/277, annex.

young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Reaffirming the provisions concerning the pursuit of full and productive employment and access to decent work and social protection for all in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and calling upon States to adopt forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development,

Recognizing that men and women workers should have equal access to education, skills training, health care, social security, fundamental rights at work, social and legal protections, including occupational safety and health, and decent work opportunities,

Recognizing also that achieving the highest attainable standard of health, through, inter alia, equitable and universal access to affordable and quality health-care services and preventive health-care information, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement and empowerment, that a lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's full enjoyment of human rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunities for receiving an education and for achieving economic and political empowerment,

Reaffirming that equal access to quality and inclusive education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, information and communications technology, science, technology, engineering and mathematics and other new technologies, and fulfilment of the need to eliminate gender inequalities at all levels are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and to allowing women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

Reaffirming also that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities, through both paid and unpaid work, at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that unremunerated work, including unpaid care and domestic work, plays an essential role in improving well-being in the household and in the functioning of the economy as a whole, and acknowledging the need to recognize and consider, where appropriate, policies and programmes that would contribute to reducing the unequal burden of unremunerated work, including care work, for which women and girls continue to carry an unequal level of responsibility, and to promote shared responsibility within the household,

Emphasizing the need to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience in the case of disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and noting with concern in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately affected by natural disasters,

Recognizing that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by desertification, deforestation, natural disasters and climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods,

Reaffirming that nutrition and other related policies should pay special attention to women and empower women and girls, thereby contributing to women's full and equal access to social protection and resources, including income, land, water, finance, education, training, science and technology and health-care services, thus promoting food security and health,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also, in this context, the importance of respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and of a national and international environment that promotes, for women and girls, inter alia, justice, gender equality, equity, civil and political participation and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms in order to achieve the advancement and empowerment of women,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to eliminate gender inequality,

Recognizing that poverty eradication and the achievement and preservation of peace are mutually reinforcing, and recognizing also that peace is inextricably linked to gender equality and the empowerment of women and to development,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[27]

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation and follow-up of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[4] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[5] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[6]

3. *Recognizes* that 2015 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in this regard welcomes the review activities undertaken by Governments, notes the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders and the review outcomes, and welcomes the central role that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) played in supporting Member States, coordinating the United Nations system and mobilizing

[27] A/70/256.

civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

4. *Also recognizes* the importance of the full engagement of men and boys for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and commits to taking measures to fully engage men and boys in efforts to achieve the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

5. *Further recognizes* the mutually reinforcing links between gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and poverty eradication, as well as the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to link policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all people, in particular women and children living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in accordance with the goals of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[10] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[12] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[28]

7. *Urges* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to accelerate their efforts and provide adequate resources to increase the voice and full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including by eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, to build women's capacity as agents of change and to empower them to participate actively and effectively in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development, poverty eradication and environmental policies, strategies and programmes;

8. *Recognizes* the ongoing intergovernmental efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, and urges the United Nations system to continue efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments to all categories of staff, including the Professional and higher categories, within the United Nations system at the Headquarters, regional and country levels, bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the representation of women from developing countries, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men in gaining access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to select the best candidate;

9. *Encourages* Member States to continue to increase, as appropriate, the participation of civil society, including women's organizations, in government decision-making processes in national policy areas, including sustainable development;

[28] Resolution 69/313, annex.

10. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to ensure systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the crucial role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, in mediation and peacebuilding efforts and in the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, inter alia, by promoting women's capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political and economic decision-making, and in this regard to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes;

11. *Urges* Member States to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure the full and equal participation of women in all levels of decision-making on environmental issues, and stresses the need to address the challenges for women and girls posed by climate change;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery strategies;

13. *Also stresses* the importance of the creation by Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders of a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all areas of life for the effective integration of women and girls in development, and of their undertaking and disseminating a gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural reform, taxation, investments, including foreign direct investment, and all relevant sectors of the economy;

14. *Urges* the donor community, Member States, international organizations, including the United Nations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through gender mainstreaming, the funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue between donors and partners, and to also strengthen the mechanisms needed to measure effectively the resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance;

15. *Urges* Member States to incorporate a gender perspective, commensurate with gender-equality goals, into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development strategies, to ensure alignment between national action plans on gender equality and national development strategies and to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts to develop methodologies and tools and to promote capacity-building and evaluation;

16. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the inclusive and more effective participation of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment in the formulation of national development strategies, including strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, and to strengthen capacities for gender mainstreaming by allocating adequate financial and human resources to national women's machineries, as well as to, and within, line ministries, establishing and/or strengthening dedicated units for gender equality and the empowerment of women, providing capacity development for technical staff and developing tools and guidelines, and calls upon the United Nations system to support national efforts in this regard;

17. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and donor countries to strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting processes and to develop and strengthen methodologies and tools for this purpose, as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of investments for gender-equality results, as appropriate, and encourages donors to mainstream a gender perspective in their practices, including joint coordination and accountability mechanisms;

18. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement legislation and policies, as appropriate, that are designed to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, to recognize, value, reduce and redistribute the disproportionate work burden of women engaged in unpaid work, including domestic and care work, including through increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as part-time work, and the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers, to provide support through the development of infrastructure and technology and the provision of public services, including accessible and quality childcare and care facilities for children and other dependants, and to ensure that both women and men have access to social protection and maternity or paternity, parental and other forms of leave and allowances and are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits;

19. *Reiterates* the need to further intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace and that women's poverty and lack of political, social and economic empowerment, as well as their marginalization, may result from their exclusion from social policies for and the benefits of sustainable development and can place them at increased risk of violence;

20. *Stresses* the need to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, and encourages Member States to adopt specific preventive measures to protect women, youth and children from any abuse, including sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence;

21. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers to, as well as eliminate stereotypical attitudes towards, gender equality at work and to initiate positive steps towards promoting equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value and women's full participation in the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making and resource allocation;

22. *Encourages* the United Nations system and donor countries to support Member States in increasing their investments in policies and programmes with a gender perspective in order to promote women's access to decent work and in delivering gender-responsive social protection and social services;

23. *Urges* Governments to develop, adequately resource and implement active labour-market policies on full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women and men in both rural and urban areas, as well as policies that encourage the full and equal participation of women and men, including persons with disabilities, in the formal labour market;

24. *Urges* the United Nations system and other international organizations, upon the request of Member States, to support and promote innovative programme responses to ensure women's access to decent work, to recognize, reduce and redistribute the unequal burden of care work, to promote social protection initiatives

and measures for women and girls with a gender perspective, and to support and encourage the scaling-up of existing good-practice programmes and initiatives;

25. *Recognizes* that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to prevent and combat gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and girls, and calls upon Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights of, and ensure decent work conditions for, domestic workers, including migrant women and girls, in relation to, inter alia, working hours, working conditions and wages, and to promote access to health-care services and other social and economic benefits;

26. *Also recognizes* the special needs of women and girls living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism, and that global health threats, climate change, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflicts, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades and have particular negative impacts on women and girls that need to be comprehensively assessed and addressed;

27. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and/or review and to fully implement gender-sensitive legislation and policies that reduce, through specifically targeted measures, horizontal and vertical occupational segregation and gender-based wage gaps;

28. *Stresses* the importance of improving and systematizing the collection, analysis and dissemination of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and of developing gender indicators that are specific and relevant with respect to supporting policymaking and national systems for monitoring and reporting on progress and impact, and in that regard encourages developed countries and relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide support and assistance to developing countries, upon their request, with respect to establishing, developing and strengthening their databases and information systems;

29. *Encourages* Governments to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and statistics on women's access to decent work, unremunerated work and social protection and to assess the impact of associated policy measures, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations, upon the request of Governments;

30. *Also encourages* Governments to strengthen the collection of time-use data, time-use research on the unpaid care burdens of women and girls and the construction of satellite accounts to determine the value of unpaid care work and its contribution to the national economy, as appropriate, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations, upon the request of Governments;

31. *Urges* all Member States to undertake a gender analysis of national labour laws and standards and to establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including for transnational corporations, with particular attention to export-processing zones, building in this regard on multilateral instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women [29] and conventions of the International Labour Organization;

32. *Stresses* the importance of developing and implementing policies and programmes to support women's entrepreneurship, in particular opportunities for new women entrepreneurs and those that lead to business expansion for existing women-owned microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, and encourages Governments to create a climate that is conducive to increasing the number of women entrepreneurs and the size of their businesses by providing them with training and advisory services in business, administration and information and communications technology, facilitating networking and information-sharing and increasing their participation on advisory boards and in other forums so as to enable them to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed, especially by financial institutions;

33. *Encourages* all Governments to work towards full and equal access to formal financial services for all women, to adopt or review their financial inclusion strategies, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and to consider including financial inclusion as a policy objective in financial regulation, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourages commercial banking systems to serve all, including those who currently face barriers to accessing financial services and information, and to support microfinance institutions, development banks, agricultural banks, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and savings banks, as appropriate, encourages the use of innovative tools, including mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments, and the expansion of peer learning and experience-sharing among countries and regions, including through the Alliance for Financial Inclusion and regional organizations, commits itself to strengthening capacity development for developing countries, including through the United Nations development system, and encourages mutual cooperation and collaboration between financial inclusion initiatives;

34. *Urges* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to their access to all types of financial services and products, including bank loans, bank accounts, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, regardless of their economic and social status, to support women's access to legal assistance and to encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes;

35. *Recognizes* the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and the generation of employment, notes in this regard the importance of sound national financial systems, and encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions;

36. *Urges* Governments to ensure that microfinance programmes focus on developing savings products that are safe, convenient and accessible to women and support women's efforts to retain control over their savings;

37. *Urges* all Governments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in the field of education and to ensure their equal access to, and encourage

[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

their participation in, all levels of education, including technical, vocational and tertiary education and training;

38. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement, as appropriate, legislation and policies protecting women's labour and human rights in the workplace, including with respect to minimum wages, social protection and equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value, promoting collective bargaining and providing for recruitment, retention and promotion policies targeting women;

39. *Reaffirms* the commitment to women's equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to the removal of any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, and the resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology, encourages the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality by striving to ensure women's full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value, and equal opportunities, as well as protecting them against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, including by supporting the women's empowerment principles established by UN-Women and the United Nations Global Compact, and encourages increased investment in female-owned companies or businesses;

40. *Urges* Governments to take measures to facilitate women's access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system gender-responsive, to provide legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, to support the efforts of women's groups and networks and to carry out awareness campaigns in order to draw attention to the need for women's equal rights to land and property;

41. *Recognizes* the need to build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment in particular and decent work for all, and to ensure that labour-market regulations and social provisions create a more level playing field for women, including by enacting and enforcing minimum wage legislation, eliminating discriminatory wage practices and promoting measures such as public works programmes, in order to enable women to cope with recurrent crises and long-term unemployment;

42. *Also recognizes* the need to empower women, particularly poor women and girls, economically and politically, and in this regard encourages Governments, with the support of their development partners, to invest in appropriate infrastructure and other projects, including the provision of water and sanitation to rural areas and urban slums, in order to increase health and well-being, relieve the workloads of women and girls and release their time and energy for other productive activities, including entrepreneurship;

43. *Expresses deep concern* that the lack of adequate sanitation facilities disproportionately affects women and girls, including their labour force and school participation rates, and increases their vulnerability to violence, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of efforts to achieve sanitation for all and to end open defecation, paying special attention to women and girls;

44. *Recognizes* the central role of agriculture in development, and stresses the importance of reviewing agricultural policies and strategies to ensure that women's critical role in food security and nutrition is recognized and addressed as

an integral part of both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries;

45. *Reaffirms* the need to end hunger and achieve food security as a matter of priority, and to end all forms of malnutrition, and in this regard reaffirms the inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security, welcomes the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,[30] and also reaffirms the commitment to devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

46. *Recognizes* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, and indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty;

47. *Also recognizes* that health is a precondition for and an outcome of sustainable development, and urges Governments to provide equal access to adequate health-care services for women and girls, in order to achieve the realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health;

48. *Expresses concern* at the overall expansion of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and the fact that in some regions women and girls are still the most affected by HIV and AIDS, that they are more easily infected, that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden and that they are more vulnerable to violence, stigmatization and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of HIV and AIDS, and, taking into account that despite substantial progress the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment care and support has not been met, calls upon Governments and the international community to urgently scale up responses towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic by 2030;

49. *Urges* Governments and all sectors of society to promote and pursue gender-based approaches to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases based on data disaggregated by sex and age in their effort to address the critical differences in the rapidly growing magnitude of non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which affect people of all ages, gender, race and income levels, as noted in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[31] and notes that people living in vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries, bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently, because, inter alia, women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of caregiving;

50. *Encourages* Governments and all sectors of society to take sustainable measures to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination against persons with disabilities,

[30] World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annexes I and II.

[31] Resolution 66/2, annex.

including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development and vocational and entrepreneurial training, in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, as noted in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[32] as well as in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,[21] and notes the need to strengthen efforts aimed at addressing the rights and needs of women and children with disabilities;

51. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving newborn, child and maternal health, in this context calls upon States to implement their commitments to preventing and reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and in that regard takes note with appreciation of commitments in support of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030), as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the reduction in the number of maternal deaths and deaths of the newborn and children under 5 years of age;

52. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially boost resources available to push forward the international development agenda, and urges countries to track and report resource allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment;

53. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking, including through the provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

54. *Encourages* the international community, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to continue to provide the financial resources necessary to assist Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, at which the outcome document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[33] was adopted, and other relevant United Nations conferences and summits;

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[32] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[33] Resolution 70/1.

55. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies that support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

56. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments, investment frameworks and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this domain in accordance with national development strategies, welcomes the work of UN-Women with United Nations country teams in assisting Member States, at their request, in integrating a gender perspective into national development policies and strategies, including sustainable development policies and strategies, in accordance with their national priorities, and stresses its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system so as to ensure that the commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming translates into effective action throughout the world;

57. *Calls upon* organizations of the United Nations development system, within their organizational mandates, to further improve their institutional accountability mechanisms and to include intergovernmentally agreed gender equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks, as set out in its resolution 67/226;

58. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Women in development", unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015